

MITCHELL PLEADS FOR A HARMONIOUS CONVENTION

President of Miners Explains Reason of Present Meeting

HELD AT INDIANAPOLIS

Peace or War Involving Vast Interests Question at Stake.

Indianapolis, March 15.—The national convention of the United Mine Workers of America opened at 10 o'clock today with over a thousand delegates present. The convention was called by President Mitchell to consider action which may result in an agreement with the coal operators that will prevent a general strike on April 1 that would bring 450,000 men from the mines. A conference with the operators will begin here Monday.

The first business of the convention today was the work of organization, and the greater part of the day was taken up with credentials of delegates. When the credentials committee had concluded its report the reading of which occupied several hours, President Mitchell formally called the convention to order.

Outlines Reasons for Meeting.
Indianapolis, March 15.—President Mitchell, in his address to the convention, outlined at considerable length the principle incidents and cases that prompted him to call the extraordinary meeting, which included conferences with the operators and labor leaders, and said:

Sees Hope.
"As a result of these meetings we came to believe there had been such changes in the coal trade, or at least in the attitude of many of the operators, as to justify the hope that there was a possibility of reaching an agreement providing joint conventions were convened."

Quotes Roosevelt's Letter.
Mitchell quoted the letter from President Roosevelt addressed to him (Mitchell) and Francis L. Robbins (president of the Pittsburgh Coal company), as additional justification for making another effort to reach an agreement, and continued:

"While, of course, there are many conflicting and inharmonious statements emanating from various sources purporting to reflect the views of the operators, they seem to indicate the entire absence of unity and concord among them in regard to questions of advancing wages. I am, nevertheless, hopeful, if not confident, the urgency and seriousness of the situation will prompt them to make such reasonable concessions in the matter of wages and conditions as will enable us to join them in the rehabilitation of our joint movement in perpetuation of the practical relationship under which we have worked at mutual advantage during the past eight years, and on this end I feel it incumbent upon me to say that a very large degree of responsibility will rest upon us if these proposed negotiations lead to success."

Desperates Harmony.
In conclusion, Mitchell expressed the hope that acrimonious debate during the deliberations of the convention would be entirely eliminated and that harmony united would prevail.

Following the appointment of a committee on rules the convention took a recess.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CONVENTION

When the last convention of the mine workers adjourned Feb. 2, following a conference with operators which had failed to arrive at a wage agreement, a strike on April 1 was inevitable unless something should intervene.

Made Many Demands.
At the convention the miners had demanded an increase in wages of 12½ per cent, the admission of the southwestern states, a 7 per cent difference between machine and pick mining, a 12½ per cent advance for yardage and dead work, prohibition of the employment of boys under 16, eight-hour day, one-year contract, and run-of-mine basis.

Resolution in the Way.
The miners also adopted a resolution, offered by Ryan of Illinois, that no district should sign a wage agreement until all districts signed. The Ryan resolution will come before the convention for action. Unless it is rescinded the bituminous miners cannot sign a wage agreement until the an-

HOPE FOR MOYER IN FEDERAL COURT

Judge Hears Applications of Accused Men for Writs of Habeas Corpus.

Boise, Idaho, March 15.—Attorneys for the imprisoned leaders of the Western Federation of Miners today presented petition for writs of habeas corpus to Judge Beatty of the United States district court. The judge took the matter under advisement.

thracite miners sign an agreement with their operators.

Make Counter Demands.
The operators, on the other hand, demanded a reduction from 10 to 15 per cent, protection against a stampede of strikes, and a better system of adjudicating local troubles. The joint conference after the defeat of a motion that the present wage scale be continued.

Operators for Miners Oppose.
All operators voted for the motion except the Illinois operators, who did not vote, and all miners voted against the motion except Patrick Dolan, who, as president of the district, voted the western Pennsylvania miners for the motion. He has since been deposed from office, but has refused to resign. His case will come up before the convention.

Finances Provided For.
At the former convention the miners adopted a motion to provide by assessment for a strike fund which would bring the amount in the several treasuries of the miners to \$5,000,000. This matter was then left to the national executive board. Since the adjournment of the former convention and joint conference Mitchell has conferred with leaders of the operators, and following the reception of a letter from President Roosevelt, the miners' president called this convention and the operators were called for a joint conference.

Proposed 2-Year-Old Scale.
It was announced at the time the call was issued that F. L. Robbins and other operators had made an offer to restore the wage scale of two years ago, which would be an advance of 5.55 per cent over the present scale. Since the publication of that offer the operators of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and other states interested have opposed the granting of any increase whatever. It has been the understanding among the miners' officials the organization would accept the restoration of the wage scale of two years ago.

BEING FELT HERE

Prospects of Coal Strike Renders Prices High and Supply Uncertain.

DEALERS NEARLY SOLD OUT

Several Causes Lead to Situation Here—Lump Goes High as \$3.50 Per Ton Wholesale.

The effect of the prospect of a coal strike is being felt keenly in Rock Island, with the approach of April 1, the date on which the strike is expected to become effective, and what are said to be the highest prices ever paid for coal in wholesale lots in this city were quoted yesterday and today. Dealers in Rock Island have sold out practically all of their supply and are making efforts in every direction to secure the coal already ordered. At wholesale today lump coal sold in Rock Island at prices ranging between \$3.35 and \$3.50, and the time of delivery is uncertain.

Many Causes.
The causes that have brought about the shortage of coal in Rock Island are many, but are all the results of the prospect of the strike. Railroads and manufacturers in all parts of the country are laying in big stores of coal, and the output of the mines is largely exhausted in filling the orders of the railroads alone. The roads will deliver no cars for shipment of coal at the mines until their own daily orders are filled, and as these are large, at many of the mines exceeding 500 tons daily, the proportion that is shipped to the trade is comparatively small, and commands unusually high prices.

Even Scarce.
Slack, which is used extensively by the manufacturers and other large consumers, is even more scarce on the local markets than lump coal is, nearly all of the dealers being entirely sold out. The prices it commands are unusually high as a result. The roads have up to the last few days been in such condition that very little coal was hauled from the banks to the three cities, but the teams were busy again today, and a portion of the demand is being supplied in that way.

ALMOST IN RIVER

A Chicago Street Car Drops Through Open Draw but Hangs Suspended.

SAVED BY BRIDGE TENDER

Acted in Time to Prevent Fall Into 22 Feet of Water—Several Are Injured.

Chicago, March 15.—A crowded electric car on North avenue ran over an abutment of a temporary bridge over a branch of the Chicago river last night and a serious accident was averted only by the presence of mind of the bridge tender. The bridge, which was swinging open, turned back so that the car, instead of plunging into the river, which is 22 feet deep at that point, struck a scow which supports the bridge. The rear wheels remained on the track while the front of the car rested on the scow, 15 feet below the street level.

Passengers Piled Up.
The passengers were piled up against the front door of the car and in the struggle to escape several were injured. One, Mrs. Elizabeth Blum, 61 years old, may be fatally injured. She had recently undergone an operation and the shock caused the wound to reopen.

REV. FRANCIS MALLOY DEAD

Dean of School of Languages at Notre Dame.

Notre Dame, Ind., March 15.—Rev. Francis Malloy, aged 63, rector of St. Joseph's hall and dean of the school of languages of the University of Notre Dame, died suddenly on the college campus yesterday from a stroke of apoplexy. The deceased was a noted linguist.

Publisher Passes.

Washington, March 15.—S. H. Kauffman, president of the Evening Star Newspaper company, president of the Corcoran gallery or art, and former president of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, is dead at the age of 76.

Captain of Davis Gone.

Green Lake, Wis., March 15.—John W. Norton, a veteran of the civil war, is dead, aged 66. He was one of the squad that captured Jefferson Davis and it was with the reward money received for his part in that event that he purchased his home in Dartford.

RACE TRACK MAN

IN DOUBLE CRIME

Louis Nossor Locks Wife in Bathroom and Kills Actress and Himself.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Louis Nossor, a race-track man locked his wife in a bathroom today, shot and killed Stella Reynolds, of New Orleans, an actress who was a visitor at their home, and then killed himself. Miss Reynolds, it is said, was formerly an intimate friend of Nossor.

STORM STRIKES THE EAST

Heavy Snow Prevails in New York and Pennsylvania.

New York, March 15.—The most severe storm of the winter began here last night and continued today. The wind blew with great force and there was a steady fall of snow. Street traffic was much interfered with.

Philadelphia, March 15.—Today's snow storm was general throughout eastern Pennsylvania. In many places the storm was the most severe of the winter.

IOWA INDEPENDENTS MEET

Form \$250,000 Telephone Company to Fight Bell Interests.

Des Moines, March 15.—At a meeting of representatives of 300 independent telephone companies of Iowa today the organization of a \$250,000 corporation to fight the Bell Telephone company in the state was started.

BIG MILLS IN A FAILURE

Farwell Worsted Concern Goes Into a Receiver's Hands.

Providence, R. I., March 15.—A receiver was appointed today for the Farwell Worsted mills, one of the largest corporations engaged in the manufacture of worsted suitings in New England. The liabilities are estimated at \$400,000, and nominal assets in excess of that amount.

Illinoisan for Consul.

Washington, March 15.—The president today nominated George Eugene Eager of Illinois to be consul at Bremen, Germany.

Talks in Packers' Case.

Chicago, March 15.—District Attorney Morrison occupied the entire day in his arguments for the government in the packers' case.

MIDDIES IN CONSPIRACY

High Scholarship Waived by Agreement, Says Bonaparte.

HELPS SOME TO PASS

Sort of Trades Union Pact Discourages Desire to Excel.

Washington, March 15.—Midshipmen at Annapolis have been conspiring to prevent a high standard of scholarship according to the statement of Secretary Bonaparte before the house committee on naval affairs today.

Brilliance at Discount.
Brilliance has been discouraged by a sort of trade union agreement to hold all midshipmen on a dead level so far as class records are concerned has been in existence, so the secretary told the committee.

Squeeze Blockheads Through.
There has been a tendency to place men who barely passed on a plane with those having higher records and anything like superior records has been discouraged.

FUNERAL SERVICES

FOR MISS ANTHONY

Hundreds Unable to Gain Admittance to Church at Rochester.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 15.—Funeral services over the body of Susan B. Anthony were held in the Central Presbyterian church this afternoon. Hundreds of men and women were unable to gain admittance to the church and stood outside the edifice during the services.

JUDGE VICKERS MAY BE NAMED

First District Judicial Committee to Fill Vacancy on Ticket.

Springfield, Ill., March 15.—The vacancy on the first district republican ticket, caused by the death in a St. Louis hospital Tuesday of Judge William Thomas of Belleville, will be filled by the new judicial district committee, comprising the chairman of the 24 republican committees in the district. Friends of Judge Alonzo K. Vickers of Vienna claim that 14 of the members favor his nomination. Judge Oliver A. Harker of Carlinville also is a candidate.

EPITOME OF DOINGS IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY

Washington, D. C., March 15.—Following is a brief resume taken from the official records of yesterday's proceedings in both houses of congress:

SENATE.—A controversy over the provisions of the railroad rate bill occupied the senate. Mr. Rayner was the chief speaker, and his criticism of the suspension feature of the measure drew replies from Messrs. Foraker, Lodge, Dilliver, Aldrich, Tillman, and Knox. A bill was passed authorizing Rear Admiral C. H. Davis to accept gifts of reports and other communications from the war department and officials in the Philippines respecting the recent battle on Mount Dapao. An executive session was taken at 5:10 p. m. and 10 minutes later the senate adjourned until today.

HOUSE.—The second day of general debate on the house on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill developed a limited discussion of the plan to reduce aged clerks. Interpersed with a speech on statehood by Mr. Babcock of Wisconsin, one on the restriction of immigration by Mr. Gardner of Massachusetts, and a presentation of reasons why the jurisdiction of federal courts should be restricted in certain cases where jurisdiction is acquired because the litigants are citizens of different states by Mr. Garrett of Tennessee. Mr. Grosvener of Ohio attacked the civil service laws. Adjournment was taken at 4:55 p. m. until today.

COURTS TAKE MAN

Prove Power in Freeing Witness Before Ohio Legislature Held for Contempt.

Cincinnati, March 15.—Thomas J. Davis, cashier of the First National bank, who was arrested in a sensational manner last night for failing to appear as witness before the Drake investigating committee, was returned to the city today on a writ of habeas corpus, having been taken from the sergeant-at-arms of the state senate at Springfield and brought here in the custody of Cincinnati officers.

PILLSBURY, CHESS PLAYER, ILL

Condition of Man, Well Known Here, Said to Be Critical.

Philadelphia, March 15.—Harry N. Pillsbury, the noted chess player, is in a hospital suffering from a stroke of apoplexy followed by an attack of paralysis. Physicians say he probably will not survive many days.

French Miners Strike.

Paris, March 15.—Following the mine disaster at Courrières 5,000 miners have declared a strike.

More On Depew's Condition.

New York, March 15.—Dr. Munn, physician to Senator Depew, denies the condition of his patient was critical.

DESPERATE FIGHT

British King's Crew Labored Three Days to Save the Doomed Ship.

WENT DOWN WITH 27 MEN

Two Vessels Came to Relief and Succeeded in Saving Many Lives.

New York, March 15.—The steamer Mannheim which rescued part of the crew of the steamer British King which sank near Sable Island last Sunday, arrived here today, with 11 survivors from the sunken steamer. They reported probably 18 of their shipmates were drowned when the British King sank. Eighteen survivors arrived at Boston yesterday.

Suffering Extreme.
Boston, March 15.—Suffering, mental and physical, and numerous acts of heroism in saving life rarely equalled in the record of tragedies of the sea, attended the loss of the steamer British King, which, on Sunday last, in a raging Atlantic storm, founded 150 miles south of Sable island, and carried to death 27 members of the crew. Thirteen men were rescued from the sinking vessel by the steamer Bostonian and by the German tank steamer Mannheim. Five others who had been drawn down in the vortex into which the British King was engulfed, were picked up by the Bostonian from a frail bit of wreckage which they had grasped after a desperate struggle for life in the whirlpool.

Captain Dies of Injuries.
Captain James O'Hagan of the British King died on board the Bostonian from the effects of terrible injuries sustained in trying to save his ship.

Two life boats from the Bostonian were crushed to fragments and the volunteer crews which manned them were thrown into the high running seas while engaged in the work of rescue, but all were safely landed on board the steamer.

Worked Three Days.
For three days their captain and crew, working against unconquerable odds, had tried to prevent their ship's destruction. Friday, in the height of the tempest, a deck load of oil barrels of the British King and all her fittings were carried overboard. The barrels and wreckage, forming into a powerful ram, were driven down upon her sides with crushing force, opening up the vessel's plates and allowing water to pour into her hold. Fires were extinguished and the engines rendered useless by the rising water. At the end of three days, when all hands had labored ceaselessly without rest and with little food, the Bostonian and Mannheim were sighted and to these Captain O'Hagan displayed signals for assistance, and such help as possible was given him.

GUILTY OF FRAUD

IS JOHN VARLEY

Conspired to Mutilate Mutual Life by Blowing Up a Body in Colorado Mine.

Cripple Creek, Col., March 15.—The jury has returned a verdict finding John Varley, alias Crowley, guilty of conspiracy to defraud the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company out of \$2,000 by blowing up a body in a tunnel and collecting money upon the policy issued to his partner, McEachern.

PARKER MAKES STATEMENT

He Thinks That Roosevelt Will Ask For Another Term.

Birmingham, Ala., March 15.—Judge Alton B. Parker, in an interview here expressed his conviction that Roosevelt will ask the nomination for another term of the presidency.

"While it would probably be disputed if it was reported in Washington or in other portions of the east," said Parker, "in my own mind I am satisfied that at present this is the intention of the president. In spite of the fact that when his nomination in 1904 was an assured fact, he made the statement that under no conditions would he again be a candidate. I believe Roosevelt has intended all along to again ask for the nomination."

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TILLMAN SEES FAULTS IN THE HEPBURN RATE BILL

DRAINAGE BOARD SHOWS NO ALARM

Investigation of Charges of Bribing Jury at Peoria Asked by McCormick.

Peoria, March 15.—State's Attorney Scholes has received a letter from President R. R. McCormick, president of the Chicago drainage board, asking that the charges of jury bribing be thoroughly investigated and offering assistance of the trustees.

"We are investigating the cases, and will continue to do so," said the state's attorney, "and we believe we will be able to prove the charges. It probably will be several days before the grand jury is ready to report."

Charges are made that the drainage board expended between \$25,000 and \$30,000 on the trial of the cases of Judge Curran and Congressman Graff against the sanitary district. It is argued that this large sum was not necessary for legitimate purposes. There also are charges that three mysterious Chicago drafts were cashed in Peoria during the progress of the trial, the amounts being \$500 each.

SHERRICK, FORMER

AUDITOR, GUILTY

Jury Finds Ex-Official in Indiana Wrongly Used \$127,000 of State's Funds.

Indianapolis, March 15.—David E. Sherrick, former auditor of state, today was found guilty of embezzlement. Sherrick was tried on indictments charging him with the misuse of \$127,000 belonging to the state.

NEW AUDITORIUM FOR SCHOOL

University Trustees Let Contract for \$91,000 Structure at Urbana.

Urbana, Ill., March 15.—The University of Illinois trustees yesterday let a contract for an auditorium to cost \$91,861. The corner stone of the new building will be laid in June. The trustees ordered the erection of a farm and mechanics' building for the college of agriculture. President James was granted a leave of absence from July to October to attend the pan-American conference, to which he was appointed a delegate by President Roosevelt.

RUSSIAN SCANDAL

Caused by Sale of Plans for Submarine Boats to Agents for Another Power.

PRISONERS ARE TORTURED

Open Letter Tells of Horrors Inflicted Upon Those Held for Political Offenses.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—A big scandal developed in the ministry of marine owing to the discovery that plans for the construction of Russian submarine boats had been sold to agents of a foreign power.

Tells of Tortures.

Professor Courtenay, member of the Academy of Sciences in an open letter today describes the horrible tortures which he asserts political prisoners at Warsaw are subjected to by Chief of Police Greun.

Forced to Sign Confessions.

He cites as examples two cases in which prisoners were starved and on four consecutive nights were beaten with clubs, jumped on, their hair pulled out by the roots, and the soles of their feet cut with knives until they signed statements confessing their guilt.

Would Kill Prisoners.

China, Russia, March 15.—On account of wholesale arrests and executions characterizing the repression of the revolutionists, numerous threats which have been made against the life of Governor General Rennenkampf, the latter has issued a proclamation in which he announced if an attempt were made upon his life or upon the lives of members of his escort, all the revolutionists now in prison will be executed within an hour.

EIGHT BURNED BY METAL

Several May Die As Result of Explosion at Braddock, Pa.

Pittsburg, March 15.—An explosion of hot metal in the converting mill of the Edgar Thompson Steel works at Braddock early today, resulted in serious injuries to eight workmen. All were terribly burned by molten metal and a number may die.

Advices Moderate Amending in Presenting it to Senate.

SUPPORTERS ARE WEAK

Thirty House Statehood Insurgents Caucus—Other Proceedings.

Washington, March 15.—"I say unto you here, love your enemies," said Dr. Hale in beginning his prayer opening the senate today, but Platt was the only senator present to listen to the admonition. The chamber was soon filled, and by the time Tillman took the floor to present his report on the railroad bill, there was the average attendance. The report was awarded the unusual distinction of being read at length.

Tillman Presents Bill.

Washington, March 15.—Senator Tillman today presented to the senate his report from the committee on interstate commerce on the house railroad rate bill, which expressed his views, but did not pretend to speak for any other member of the committee.

Favors Amendments.

The senator declared it to be his belief the bill should be amended, but that the amendment should not be of a character to impair or prevent the accomplishment of the objects of legislation, which are set forth best, he says, in the president's message to congress. He emphasized the need of regarding the measure as nonpartisan, but predicted the issue created will be paramount in the next presidential election.

Refers to West Virginia.

Tillman recommended that amendments to the bill be adopted which would give relief to the "anomalous and outrageous condition of affairs disclosed as existing in West Virginia."

Cuts Off the \$50,000.

Washington, March 15.—The Townsend resolution conferring additional power on the interstate commerce commission to make the special investigation authorized in the Tillman-Gillespie resolution regarding the relations between certain railroads and the coal and oil industry, was passed by the house today.

May Need More.

The resolution was amended by striking out the \$50,000 appropriation on the statement of Tawney that the commission was to submit an estimate which would probably aggregate \$150,000. The resolution meets the president's suggestion in the special message on the subject.

Statehood Insurgents Meet.

Washington, March 15.—The caucus of house "insurgents" on the statehood bill today decided to attend the house conference today and vote in a body to concur in the senate amendments to the bill. If this motion fails the "insurgents" as a last resort decided to vote to accept the bill for two states if the Foraker amendment for a referendum vote in relation to Arizona and New Mexico is retained. There were about thirty members present.

Scores Philippine Slaughter.

Washington, March 15.—Jones (Va.) said in the house today that notwithstanding the close relation between the president and General Wood, he could not understand how the president could endorse the killing of women and children. The affair was a blot on this country.

Rates in Controversy.

Washington, March 15.—The railroad rate bill yesterday reached a controversial stage in the senate. The question came up in the regular order of business shortly before 2 o'clock and held the floor until the doors were closed for a brief executive session a few minutes after 5 o'clock.

Rayner was the chief speaker of the day, and the debate that took place was provoked by some of his utterances. Among the senators who were aroused by him were Foraker, Lodge, and Dilliver.

Both the Ohio senator and the Massachusetts senator took exception to Rayner's contention that railroads have interfered in the framing of the bill, and Foraker also expressed himself as dissatisfied with the intimation that the railroads are represented on the floor of the senate.

Slap at Rayner.

Dilliver expressed displeasure with the plea for amendments and went so far as to say that the help of such friends as Rayner could very well be dispensed with.

Other senators who participated in

(Continued on Page Eight.)